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Ohio Mycological Bulletin No. 1

W. A. Kellerman, Ph.D., Ohio State University,

Columbus, Ohio, March 7, 1903.

INTRODUCTORY. — Many of the Mushrooms, Toadstools, Morels, Puffballs, Coral-fungi, etc., are conspicuous objects. Others are more retiring, often very small, and seen only when search is made. It is not until one heeds the various forms, seeks out and enumerates the kinds, that it is realized what a large number may occur in a small area of favorable country.

Not the least interesting fact in connection with these curious, often beautiful plants, is that they are mostly edible, palatable, even delicious. A few kinds however are poisonous. It is interesting to study these attractive plants; it is really necessary to do so if one wishes to use the edible and avoid the poisonous kinds. To introduce this study and to aid those who have already begun is the purpose of the OHIO MYCOLOGICAL BULLETIN.

Those who are willing to join in this work, who have sufficient interest in the Toadstools and Mushrooms to wish to know more about them, who may desire perhaps now and then to send specimens, or who wish the BULLETIN — which will be issued from time to time — will be enrolled as members of the OHIO MYCOLOGICAL CLUB. Fee, 10 cents.



WORDS EXPLAINED. — The word fun'-gus (pronounce the second syllable as in the word "bo-gus") is used to indicate any of the kinds mentioned above; in fact *fungi* (pronounced fun'-ji, the *i* is long) include all these and other species also, as the Moulds, Mildews, Rusts, Smuts, Peach-curl, Apple-scab, Bacteria, etc. We will generally use the word fun-gus (pl. fun-gi) but the reader may say, if preferred, Mushrooms and Toadstools. Do not imagine that only the kinds good to eat are *Mushrooms*, and the bad species *Toadstools* — though some people try to use the words in this way only; the two words may be used interchangeably and properly signify one and the same thing. The Mushrooms or Toadstools with various other conspicuous species are called the HIGHER FUNGI; this is by way of contrast to the less conspicuous, often microscopic forms, as Moulds, Bacteria, Leaf-spot fungi, etc.



KINDS OR GROUPS OF FUNGI. — Collect some fun-gi (or Mushrooms) and after carefully inspecting them decide to which of the following group each belongs; (take several similar lessons for practice).

1. GILL-FUNGI (the botanical name is A-gar-i-ca'-ce-ae) — having flat plates called la-mel-lae or gills, as in figure 1.
2. PORE-FUNGI (or Pol-y-po-ra'-ce-ae) — with pores in place of gills, as shown in figure 2.
3. SPINE-FUNGI (or Hyd-na'-ce-ae) — having soft spines instead of gills or pores; figure 3.
4. CORAL-FUNGI (Cla-var-i-a'-ce-ae) — branching or shrub-like in form, as shown in figure 4.

5. **CARRION-FUNGI** (Phal-la'-ce-ae) — as represented in figure 5 and having a disgusting odor.
6. **PUFF-BALLS** (Ly-co-per-da'-ce-ae) — globular, oval, or pear-shaped, when old filled with powder (spores); figure 6.

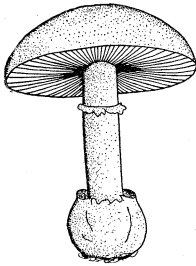


Fig. 1.
Gill-fungus.

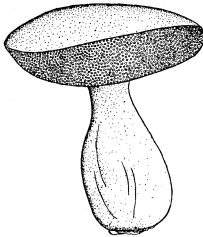


Fig. 2.
Pore-fungus.

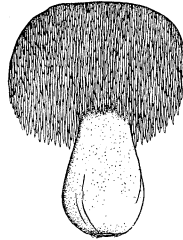


Fig. 3.
Spine-fungus.



Fig. 4.
Coral-fungus.

7. **EARTH-STARS** (Ly-co-per-da'-ce-ae) — these are peculiar small Puff-balls called *Ge'-as-ters*, which means Earth-stars, shown in figure 7.
8. **CUP-FUNGI** (Pe-zi-za'-ce-ae) — more or less cup-like in shape, usually small; shown in figure 8.
9. **MO-RELS** (Hel-vel-la'-ce-ae) — peculiar shape as shown in figure 9.



USEFUL BOOKS. — Three illustrated Manuals may be recommended to those who are old enough or have experience enough to use them to advantage. Of course everyone can profit by inspecting the excellent pictures even if the text seems too difficult.

The plainest and perhaps most usable Manual for beginners is Nina Marshall's *Mushroom Book*. Price \$3.00. The size is 7 x 10 inches and one inch thick. Pages 167. It has an extended and fully illustrated key

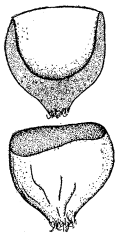


Fig. 8.
Cup-fungus.



Fig. 5.
Carrion-fungus.



Fig. 9.
Morel.

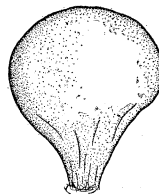


Fig. 6.
Puff-ball.

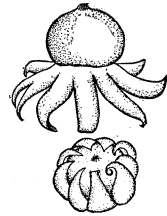


Fig. 7.
Earth-star.

for determining the families, genera and species. There are many full-page plates; some are half-tones; many colored plates.

Atkinson's *Mushrooms Edible and Poisonous* is an admirable book; written by a specialist yet may be used satisfactorily by the general student. The book is 6¼ x 9¼ inches, 1¼ inch thick. Pages 322. Price \$3.00. Only a few of the plates are colored, but the numerous half-tones are fine. Some sample illustrations from this book will be shown in the next BULLETIN.

A larger and more expensive book is McIlvaine & Macadam's *One Thousand American Fungi*; everyone should have access to it. Price

\$5.00. It is $7\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and 3 inches thick. Pages 729. There are figures of 278 species. Many of the plates are colored. This book especially (and indeed all of the above) should be purchased by your Public Library; and it is hoped too that many books will be ordered by the members of the Club.

It has been arranged to give the MEMBERS of the OHIO MYCOLOGICAL CLUB a considerable rebate on all or any one of the above, provided payment is sent to Mr. L. S. Wells, bookseller, Columbus, Ohio. He will deliver the books, prepaid, as follows: on the *Mushroom Book* (\$3.00), a rebate of 20 cents; on *Mushrooms Edible and Poisonous* (\$3.00), a rebate of 40 cents; and on *One Thousand American Fungi* (\$5.00), a rebate of 20 cents.



SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.—It is urged that every teacher of Botany devote *several lessons* at regular intervals in the course, to the MUSHROOMS. Have the pupils bring in ample quantity of all kinds that can be found—unfortunately they are not so abundant in early spring as later—and in the class room sketch the plants and name the parts; if feasible, use water-colors, and paint the figures true to nature; contrast the several species found, take full and neat notes including the exact habitats, it being desirable to state always the environment of the specimen—woods, grove, roadside, pasture, on wood, stump, rotten logs, in sandy or wet soil, in shade, etc. Then try to use the keys or apply the diagnoses that will be given in successive numbers of the BULLETIN or in available books. Discuss the mode of life. By this plan *real* botany is possible and worth the while! If any good paintings of Mushrooms are kindly sent to the State University, they will be gratefully received, and awarded a permanent place in the Botanical Department.



In case teachers wish to supply pupils with the BULLETINS for regular class work, it might be preferable to send the requisite number of copies in one package to the teacher's address instead of mailing them separately to the several pupils.

NATURE STUDY.—Those live teachers who are attempting to cultivate and strengthen the child-mind in its sympathy with nature, invoking her aid in their sacred charge, whether working in primary room or grammar grade, are invited to use the Ohio Mycological Bulletin, if perchance it may assist in such important work. The child will gladly study these interesting plants.

“And Nature, the old nurse, took
The child upon her knee,
Saying: ‘Here is a story book
Thy Father has written for thee.’”



GILL-FUNGI.—These Mushrooms form an exceedingly large group. They are also called Ag-ar-ics, an English word formed from A-gar-i-cus which is the botanical (or Latin) name and the one used long ago for a genus (that is, a group of similar species). These Mushrooms bear “spores” on the surface of the gills. *Spores* might be called microscopic seeds; they are simpler in structure but correspond in function to seeds in the higher plants. Curiously enough when a sufficient quantity of the spores is accumulated so that the mass is visible, it is found that the color may be either *white*, *brown*, *rusty* (or *ochre-like*), *pink*, or *black*. We must determine the color of the spores in order to classify the kinds and to find the correct name in the books on Mushrooms. Therefore the necessary thing to do as soon as a fresh specimen is found, is to make a “spore-print,” as the collected mass of spores is called. How to do this will be fully explained and illustrated in BULLETIN No. 2.

THE NEXT BULLETIN.—If prompt and generous support comes it will be possible to issue the second Bulletin soon. Your name in the list of MEMBERS of the OHIO MYCOLOGICAL CLUB will indicate that your fee (10 cents) has been received. Please advise others to join with us in this undertaking. Every one interested in the Mushrooms or other plants, or desirous of receiving the Bulletin, even if not residing in Ohio, is eligible to membership. You are invited to forward your name with accompanying fee of 10 cents. Do not fail to ask questions if any come to mind. Directions for collecting and studying will be given in future numbers, also illustrations and descriptions of various species, perhaps some keys for determining species, notes on cooking mushrooms, and many interesting mycological topics.



OTHER SPECIMENS.—It must not be supposed that, because special attention is called to Mushrooms, we are neglecting other groups of the Ohio plants. We desire to get Herbarium specimens of every species from every County in the State. We have a good representation from a few counties, a fair amount from many, but a very small number of specimens from the majority of Counties—though the State Herbarium now contains over 20,000 mounted sheets of the Vascular Cryptogams and Phanerogams alone. We want more Algae, Fungi, Lichens, Liverworts, and Mosses, as well as other plants.



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